

BOOK REVIEW OF *DAHLAN ISKAN PEMIMPIN YANG HAPPY*

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ABSTRAK

Dahan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy adalah buku yang ditulis oleh Rachmanto yang sangat mengagumi sosok Dahlan Iskan. Buku ini berisi tentang perjalanan hidup Dahlan Iskan dari memulai karirnya sebagai jurnalis, direktur utama PLN, hingga akhirnya menjadi Menteri Negara BUMN di Kabinet Indonesia Bersatu Jilid II dan sekarang pun muncul wacana kalau beliau akan dicalonkan sebagai Presiden Indonesia 2014. Rachmanto menulis buku ini bertujuan untuk memberikan inspirasi dan motivasi kepada pembacanya yaitu tentang bagaimana meraih kesuksesan dengan perjuangan.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The branch of literature consists of narrative prose dealing with or offering opinions or conjectures upon facts and reality, including biography, history, essay, and memoir, for example of biography is *Dahlan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy* written by Rachmanto.

Rachmanto wrote the memoir because he wants to give information to readers about figure of Dahlan Iskan. By using this information, he also hopes that his book can motivate the readers. In this memoir,

Rachmanto tells about Dahlan Iskan's life and career, from his childhood story, when he became a reporter, an entrepreneur, a director of *PLN*, and now he become the Minister of *BUMN*. It also describes struggle of Dahlan Iskan against liver disease and liver transplants.

This biography is arranged neatly and easy to understand and it is also rich in benefits. By reading this book the readers will also get knowledge about entrepreneurship skill and become a leader in everywhere.

There are lessons that can be learnt from his story. The lessons teach us to be grateful and patient, whatever our condition, either less, or more enough.

1.2 Purposes of the Study

The main purpose of this writing is to review the memoir *Dahlan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy* written by Rachmanto. The review includes the strengths and weaknesses of the biography. The review is expected to help the readers to find out the memoir. Another purpose is to describe the simple figure of Dahlan Iskan and his life experience to become success person. The book itself tells about Dahlan Iskan's experience as a reporter who later rebuild *Jawa Pos Group*. It also tells his success to become the Director of *PLN* and Minister of *BUMN* until now.

The last purpose of writing this final project is to fulfill requirement for Sarjana in English Departement, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University Semarang. The English Departement of Diponegoro University requires the student to write the final project as one of the requirements of academic education for those taking Non-Thesis Program

1.3 About the Author and His Work

Rachmanto was born on 20 January 1981 in Jakarta. He graduated from Primary School 11 Jakarta, Junior High School 126 Jakarta, and High School 51 Jakarta. After graduating from High School, in 2000 he continued his study in Gajah Mada University Economic Faculty and he took the major Marketing Departement. Then, on 2001 he studied Philosophy Faculty, Gajah Mada University. In order to get knowledge and religion science, he studied again until 2,5 years in Student Boarding School At-Taqwa, Suronatan, Yogyakarta. He also studied Arabic Language until 1,5 years in *Ma'had* Alli bin Abi Tholib, UMY, Yogyakarta.

When he became an active student in student organisation, he was appointed as the Head of Philosophy Moslem Family Gajah Mada University, a Head of Student Senate in Boarding School At-Taqwa Suronatan, Public Relation staff KAMMI DIY, and as a Volunteer in *Rumah Zakat*. Since mid-lecture, he began to make papers intensively. His articles had been published in *Kompas* newspaper, *Kedaulatan Rakyat*, *Jawa Pos*, *Suara Merdeka*, *Annida Magazine*, and *Balairung Journal*. Until now he is always active as freelance writer and as a trainer. He had worked as Youth Care Officer *Rumah Zakat*

Indonesia, Community Development Officer Yogyakarta, and Program of Regional Central Java. The author began to recognize Dahlan Iskan from his work in *Jawa Pos* newspaper. His writing style was able to motivate the readers. Since then, the author became more interested in the career of Dahlan Iskan until he became Minister of *BUMN*.

2. SUMMARY OF DAHLAN ISKAN PEMIMPIN YANG HAPPY

Dahlan Iskan was born in August 17, 1951 in Magetan, East Java. There was an interesting story about his date of birth. Dahlan Iskan said that the date was created by himself because at that time there was no record when he was born and his parents also did not remember the date of his birthday. And then he chose August 17 as his birthday because it was an independence day of Republic of Indonesia.

Dahlan Iskan's success did not only come from hard work but with the support of his beloved wife, Nafsiah. She is married to Dahlan Iskan and they had two children, Azrul Ananda and Isna Fitriana. Nafsiah is the type of wife who cares and loves her husband and also her children. His wife is a source of strength in his career and his job achievement. Within her support, Dahlan Iskan could achieve success until now.

Dahlan Iskan career began as a candidate for a small newspaper reporter in Samarinda (East Kalimantan) in 1975. In 1976, he became a journalist in *Tempo Magazine*. Since 1982, he is a leader of *Jawa Pos* newspaper until today. He is a figure who made the *Jawa Pos* which was almost dead with a circulation of 6000 copies within 5 years of being a newspaper with a circulation of 300,000 copies.

Dahlan Iskan was already aware that he was suffering from liver disease since 29 years ago. This biography tells about the reason why he could be infected with hepatitis B because he did not get the vaccine as a child and he did not know how important vaccines are. As the result of the disease, his face turned into black, his feet, and the body also became swell. In May 2005, he flew to 19 cities (both inside and abroad) in just 8 days. When in Surabaya, he began to feel the strangeness of his body. He had blood vomit, since then he realized how dangerous his disease was. He was sentenced by doctor from suffering cirrhosis of the liver. After that, he decided to transplant his liver surgery. He was recommended to do it in China because there were doctors who had experience in liver transplantation. However, the doctors assumed that he could only hold out for the next five years. It was not easy to undergo liver transplantation because of it is hard to find people who were willing

to donate his or her liver. Until one day there was someone who volunteered to give his heart to Dahlan Iskan, when he knew it apparently he could not bear it. However, there is happy news that Dahlan Iskan did not need to take some parts of others' liver, but he could to have the liver fully.

Since late 2009, Dahlan Iskan was appointed as the Director of PLN. Since he was appointed as leader of *PLN*, Dahlan made some breakthrough such as Indonesia *byar pet* - free in six months and launched *Gerakan Sehari Sejuta Sambungan* (A Million Connection a Day Movement). While serving as president of *PLN* his salary was estimated at Rp 150 million per month. Actually, Dahlan Iskan did not know how much his salary while he worked in *PLN* and he never received a salary while in *PLN*. It was such a very rare attitude for a state official. He is also known for its simple appearance which often uses his favorite sneakers when he meet Mr. President even at inauguration of cabinet reshuffle volume II, he still wears the sneaker.

On October 17, 2011, Dahlan Iskan was appointed as successor of Minister of *BUMN* who suffered pain. He moved when he was called to be the Minister of *BUMN* because he did not complete his duties as president director of *PLN* yet.

3. REVIEW OF DAHLAN ISKAN PEMIMPIN YANG HAPPY

3.1 The Strengths of *Dahlan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy*

The cover of the book is the picture of Dahlan Iskan who holds a microphone as if he was singing. This is very interesting because the picture is related to the title, so it will makes the readers more curious. Meanwhile the title and the cover of the book, illustrates how the figure of Dahlan Iskan as a humble, hardworking, and flexible leader.

The biography does not only tell about his marriage, his children, and the way he became a successful man, but also his characteristics in leading his life. It is not a simple biography but it is a complete and perfect biography of Dahlan Iskan. The author describes and analyzes Dahlan's character and life in detailed and clearly ways.

The next strong point of the biography is the plot. Plot is the author arrangement of incidents in a story. The plot of the biography is well organized from the beginning until the end. The author of the book uses mixed plot. It tells the real life of Dahlan Iskan from the point when he was a child until he became a Minister of *BUMN*, and his attitude in his leadership. The beginning of the biography tells about young Dahlan Iskan when he began his career as a reporter and then when

he successfully rebuilt the *Jawa Pos* newspaper. The middle of the book tells about the time when Dahlan Iskan did a liver transplant. It is when he started his career as a president director of PLN so that he became a minister. In the end, the memoir tells about Dahlan Iskan as a candidate for President of Republic of Indonesia.

The main theme in *Dahlan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy* focuses on the struggle of Dahlan in his life to achieve success by applying a happy leader. After reading the book, the readers could feel his motivation to strive to be a leader. This book does not only tell about leadership of Dahlan Iskan but also about his struggle to fight against his heart disease. So, the focused theme is one of the strong points of this book.

The writing style of the author is also the strong point of the book. Rachmanto as the author writes this biography of Dahlan Iskan by using his own style, languages, and interpretation which are different from the others. He has the ability to correlate the real history and his logical imaginative. In *Dahlan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy*, the author uses descriptive and narrative style in his writing.

The sentences of the book are well ordered because Rachmanto can arrange the sentences very well. He is able to interpret his own word and

to choose the appropriate words, so the book is good for reading. Although Rachmanto uses formal language, it is easy to understand. He describes Dahlan Iskan's life and his work that is full of spirit in order to be a leader and the spirit for not giving up. Therefore, the reader feels tight and full of spirit when reading the book. The reader has desire in reading the book until the end. When reading this book, the reader can feel Dahlan's spirit to actualize his dreams. His thought, spirit, responsibility, and great effort in his life can be inspiration and motivation for the reader.

3.2 Weaknesses of *Dahlan Iskan Pemimpin yang Happy*

This book does not make obvious strategies of how to give feedback or answers that give expectation to young people who are interested in participating and performing brilliant idea from Dahlan Iskan. If there is no clear strategy, any ideas and suggestion that appear will not reach the reader. In this biography the displays photos are presented in black and white photo. If only this book displays colored photos, it would be more interesting to the reader.

4. CONCLUSION

In summary, this book has several strengths and weaknesses. It also has some interesting points that make different from any other book

about Dahlan Iskan. This book is also a good biography because it has some positive values that could reach the young people who are interested in applying Dahlan Iskan's spirits in their lives.

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